



February 2007

Construction season set to begin

New sidewalks for downtown. A traffic signal at the intersection of Lansdowne Drive and East Reynolds Road. A reconfigured intersection for Liberty and Todds roads. A new salt barn in eastern Fayette County. The first noise wall in Fayette County.

These are just a few of the more than four dozen projects -- in various stages of design or construction -- on a list of Division of Engineering projects for 2007.

Here's a look at some of the bigger projects, where they stand, how much money is allocated for them and their status.

STREETS AND ROADS

Liberty/Todds roads, Sec. 1A: This project area includes four projects in close proximity and is being built in conjunction with the new elementary school in the Liberty-Todds Rd. area. Scheduled to be bid by the state in May, construction could start in July and will reconfigure the intersection of Todds and Liberty roads. Cost: \$7.5 million.

Newtown Pike Extended, Section 1: Includes the purchase of right-of-way, including buying up houses and then building temporary housing for the residents of Davistown. Eventually, the mitigation phase will include build-

ing a new subdivision in the area. Cost: \$12 million.

Lansdowne at East Reynolds: This started as a project to install a traffic signal at a cost of \$100,000. It now includes \$250,000 of roadway improvements. Half of the funds will come from the sale of state road bonds. Construction is expected to start this summer. Cost: \$350,000.

Loudon Avenue: Streets in this area, previously closed for utility construction, will be closed again in mid-to-late summer from Idlewild to Winchester Road. This project includes federal money distributed through state transportation agencies. The total project cost is \$5.3 million.

Meadows-Northland-Arlington: Phases 2C and 2D. This project is also in the Loudon Avenue area, with 2C under construction now and 2D scheduled to be bid this spring. Cost: \$1.1 million and \$750,000 respectively.

Seventh Street: Seventh Street will be closed for 14 weeks this spring to remove the railroad crossing from the roadway. Bids are expected to be opened in late February, with construction starting as early as mid-April. Cost: \$250,000.

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Reforest the Bluegrass set for April

As the calendar turns from winter to spring, our thoughts turn to blooming flowers, new leaves on the trees, and Lexington's annual Reforest the Bluegrass event.

This year volunteers will help plant several thousand tree seedlings at the McConnell's Trace Greenway, along the Towne Branch Trail, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 14. This area is located off Leestown Road, across from Masterson Station Park.

This is the ninth year for the project, which has led to over 150,000 trees being planted in Lexington parks. The project is designed to improve air quality, increase the number of natural habitats for wildlife, and improve water quality by extracting pollutants from stormwater.

Last year approximately 400 people came out in

the snow to plant trees at Mary Todd Park, but it should be warmer this year because of the later planting date.

Tree seedlings, planting instructions, lunch, parking, and Reforest the Bluegrass T-shirts will be provided for volunteers. Forestry and

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Sewer projects, bike trails funded for this year

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Other projects on the list of streets and roads construction include Saron Drive connection, \$150,000; Star Shoot Parkway Extension, \$1,750,000; and Twelfth Street reconstruction, \$550,000.

BIKEWAYS, PEDESTRIAN TRAILS

Brighton East Rail Trails, Sections 1 and 2: A dedication of a section of this bike and pedestrian trail in southeast Lexington is expected sometime this spring. Section 1 runs from just north of Helmsdale Place to Pleasant Ridge Park. Section 2 will connect Pleasant Ridge Park to Deer Haven Park. Cost: \$900,000.

Downtown Sidewalks: This project includes a survey of downtown infrastructure for Main, Vine and part of Short streets. The survey and design will include looking at what sections of the brick sidewalks should be replaced for safety reasons. Cost: \$500,000, of which \$150,000 should remain to begin construction.

Liberty Park Trail, Section 1: Engineers have designated this as a priority project, with a completion date of June 30. Cost: \$80,000.

Other bikeway and pedestrian projects and funding for them include: Alumni Drive sidewalk, \$4,500; Georgetown Street sidewalks, \$200,000; Maxwell Street bike lane and sidewalk, \$190,000; Rose Street Bike Lane Design, \$20,000; sidewalk ramps, \$90,000; South Elkhorn Trail, Section 1, \$250,000; Town Branch, sections 1B and 2, \$475,000; Wellington Trail, \$145,000; and West Hickman Trail, \$1.5 million.

SANITARY SEWER PROJECTS

Bracktown, Cadentown, and Wilderness Road/Woodward Lane: Each of these unsewered areas projects will replace septic tank usage with sanitary sewers. Wilderness Road will cost \$2 million; Bracktown, \$1.3 million; and Cadentown, \$800,000. The contractor is ready to break ground on the



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Bracktown project; the Wilderness Road project is 25 percent complete, while easements are still being obtained for the Cadentown project. All projects are largely funded by grants from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

Other projects on the list include Hamburg Force Main Relocation and the Old Paris Road pump station.

STORMSEWER PROJECTS

Liberty Road project: This project would add greenspace to Johnson Heights Park by purchasing residences that flood, \$425,000.

Glendover West: This project is now under construction at the Arboretum on the University of Kentucky campus and adds features to the Arboretum that will improve stormwater runoff conditions and water quality, \$500,000.

Trafton Street: This project off Versailles Road and upstream of McConnell Springs will reduce serious street flooding and improve water quality; it is expected to cost about \$1.5 million.

Elizabeth Street project, Phase 1: Storm water controls in the Forest Park

and Floral Park areas will reduce home and street flooding, \$800,000.

North Limestone Project: Calls for buying houses to create open space that will correct poor drainage between Sixth and Seventh streets, \$500,000.

Other larger projects include buying houses on Derby Drive, \$600,000; headwall safety rails for open storm sewers, \$100,000; Gainesway Pond and other water quality projects, \$175,000; fix broken storm sewer near former Furrows Building on Versailles Road, \$125,000.

OTHER PROJECTS

Miscellaneous other projects include the 2006 Congestion Management Study of Man O' War, expected to be complete in April at a cost of \$250,000; installation of fiber optic cable to the Kentucky Horse Park, \$400,000; the almost-complete I-75 noise abatement project which installed a noise wall behind Brighton Woods to shield the neighborhood from the noise of nearby Interstate-75, \$550,000 in federal funds; and \$2 million to build a road into LFUCG property near Athens and build an additional salt barn for the Division of Streets, Roads and Forestry.

Don Kelly named Public Works Commissioner

With an extensive background in transportation at the state level, it is hardly surprising that Public Works Commissioner Don Kelly has improving Lexington's traffic flow as one of his main goals.

"It's one of the key issues because a lot of people are concerned about traffic in Lexington," he said. "We want to upgrade and improve the quality of the traffic flow."

Part of the problem is the layout of the city's street system – in the shape of a wheel with a hub and spokes radiating outward rather than the more usual grid pattern.

"Just the basic network itself is difficult. Until we are able to make some improvements to New Circle Road, we won't be able to make a major impact," Kelly said.

His second priority is the lawsuit against Lexington by the Environmental Protection Agency over the quality of both its storm and waste water.

Once again, Lexington is hampered by physical attributes: its treated wastewater flows into a system of creeks instead of a large body of water, such as a river.

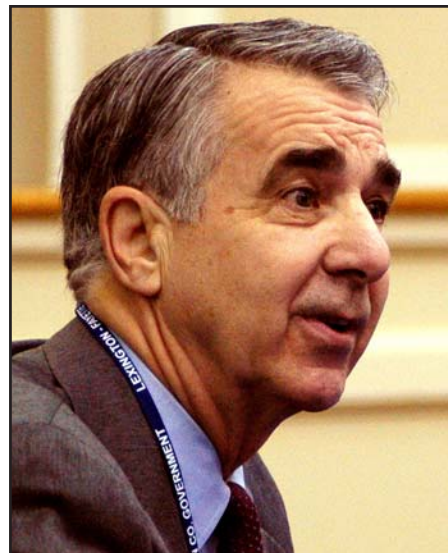
"What we put in has to be a lot cleaner than what was acceptable when much of our infrastructure was built."

He has no doubt that Lexington can weather the storm and waste water controversy. "We've got really good people if we can give them the guidance and tools they need to get the job done," Kelly said.

The right tools include the latest in rapidly-evolving technology, and Lexington is experimenting with new technology. One example is using a common product to help keep ice and snow from adhering to the roadways – beet juice. "It's more environmentally safe than salt and other products," Kelly noted.

Appointed as commissioner of Public Works by newly-elected Mayor Jim Newberry, working in local government is a new experience for Kelly. "I've worked at the state and university level, but never at the local level. I have been pleasantly surprised with the quality of people we have working for us in the Urban County Government."

How different is local government? "People have a tendency to want to talk



to the commissioner of public works and I am taking more of those calls now although time is pretty scarce."

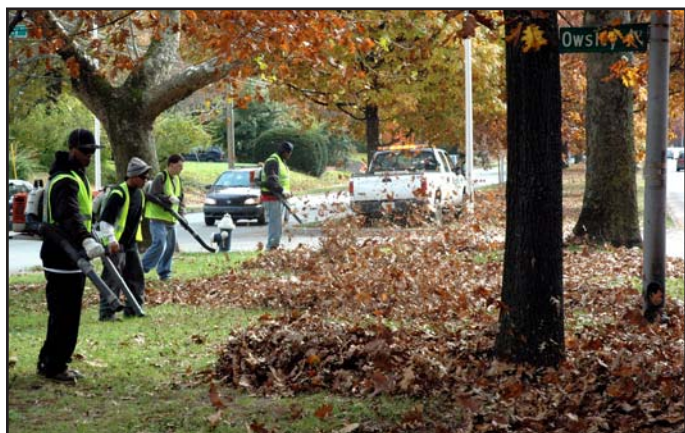
Working closely with the Urban County Council is also "a pretty new experience for me."

Kelly, originally from Madisonville, received his bachelor and master degree in civil engineering from the University of

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Record number of leaves collected this year

The Division of Parks and Recreation's leaf collection crews more than doubled the amount of leaves they collected this year during the vacuum leaf collection program.



"Last year we collected about 837 tons of leaves," said Allen Laughlin, who coordinates the program. "This year we had 1770 tons of leaves."

The leaves were collected in November and December in areas of the city that have their garbage collected by the city's Division of Solid Waste. No additional areas were added to the program, Laughlin said.

He attributed the doubling of the volume to a lush

than normal growing season that saw a lot of rainfall, more trees in the areas reaching maturity, and more people in the areas served participating in the program.

"Participation this year went up from about 50 percent to 60 percent," he said. "This is also the first year that the trees have fully recovered from the ice storm and the trees have reached their maturity in many areas outside of New Circle Road."

The cost of the program came in under its budgeted amount, \$521,620, Laughlin said.

Tubby's Clubhouse benefits from e-waste recycling



As the LFUCG encourages citizens to recycle their old electronics and computers rather than just throwing them away, the Bluegrass Partnership for a Green Community, a partnership between the LFUCG, the University of Kentucky and the Fayette County Public Schools, suggested a possibility for the Tubby's Clubhouse program, which is directed by the General Services Department and Division of Parks and Recreation.

With help from the Division of Solid Waste, computers and monitors that citizens bring to the recycling center are being evaluated to see if they can be refurbished and used in a computer class.

"Our computer education programs have been very successful over the past three years," said Eric Howard, the Tubby's Clubhouse-LFUCG coordinator. "Tubby's Clubhouse just graduated its 600th student. Our senior citizen computer education program is just starting its third class and we've been working with a teen computer education program at the Castlewood Community Center. That means we need gently-used com-

puters and this is a great way for the program to get re-usable systems that would end up in the landfill."

When a citizen drops a computer off at the Versailles Road Campus electronic recycling center, it gets a preliminary evaluation by on-site staff. Depending on its age and condition, it may be set aside for further inspection by

Tubby's Clubhouse Technician, Ben Rasor.

"What we're looking for is a computer that's less than three or four years old," said Rasor. "We want systems that can be reloaded with an operating system and current, usable software that are usable for senior citizens and others in our programs. We're not looking to try and repurpose computers that are well past their prime."

Once it's determined that the computer can be re-used, the system is cleaned and the hard drive erased with a program used by the military to ensure all of the previous user's data is completely gone. Then the system is checked once again and loaded with an operating system and software.

The electronic recycling center will be closed until the spring when it will open again for a week of electronic item recycling. Individuals with computers that are less than three years old and who would like to donate them to the Tubby's Clubhouse computer education program can call (859) 288-2987.

For more information about the Tubby's Clubhouse program or the computer education classes, call Eric Howard at (859) 258-3905.

-- John Bobel, Public Information Officer, Division of Parks and Recreation

FHWA visits TMC

The Division of Traffic Engineering recently hosted some special guests in their Traffic Management Center (TMC): representatives from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the West Virginia Division of Highways.

"We're moving towards our first TMC," said Cathy Satterfield of the FHWA West Virginia office.

The visitors received a presentation about Lexington's traffic system, and asked the Traffic Engineering staff several questions about the costs, capabilities and set-up of a state-of-the-art TMC.

Steve Cummins, Traffic Engineering's Signal Systems Manager, stressed the importance of Lexington's partnerships between Traffic, Police, Fire, the University of Kentucky, Fayette County Schools and others. He also took the guests on a tour of the signal server room, which houses the computerized "brains" of the system.

Lexington's TMC has received awards for its innovations and performance, and is a model for other mid-sized cities. The fact-finding group was also scheduled to tour traffic centers in Virginia, Louisville, and Des Moines, Iowa.



Ron Herrington, Director of Traffic Engineering, speaks to representatives from the FHWA and West Virginia about Lexington's Traffic Management Center.

Reforest volunteers needed

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tree care professionals will be on hand to assist each individual in the tree-planting process.

Planters should dress according to the weather, and should wear water resistant footwear. Each person should bring work gloves, shovels, or planting tools. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old or accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers can call Lexcall at (859) 425-2255 or 311 to register to volunteer for the event.

Reforest the Bluegrass is sponsored by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky American Water, Lexmark, Kentucky Utilities, Bluegrass PRIDE and the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

Kelly's background prepares him for challenges

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Kentucky. He is a registered engineer in Kentucky and Florida. His most recent professional project is not a roadway or infrastructure – it's a church.

Prior to joining the LFUCG, Kelly was project construction manager for the Tates Creek Presbyterian Church, where he is a member, throughout the construction of its \$4.1 million sanctuary.

Prior to that he was vice-president of the Lexington office of Atlanta-based Jordan, Jones and Goulding, where he was involved in transportation systems development and also worked as a private transportation and management consultant.

From 1991 to 1995, Kelly was Secretary of Transportation for the state of Kentucky,

capping a state government career that included the post of deputy secretary of Commerce, program manager for the University of Kentucky Transportation Center, and various management jobs with Murray State University (1980-86) and the Kentucky Department of Highways, where he started as a project engineer in 1967.

At the time he graduated, an engineer with a major in transportation in Kentucky, "went to work for the Department of Highways or you left the state." He left the state only once in his career, when in 1988 he went to work in Los Angeles as deputy project director for the consultant to the Southern California Rapid Transit District for the Metro Rail Program.

Kelly and his wife, Janice, have three children and 9 grandchildren, ranging in age from 3 years to 10 years. Five of the nine grandchildren were adopted from China.

Where does he see change coming as Public Works Commissioner? "One of the things Mayor Newberry has emphasized is the need to focus on the quality of our environment. I see some changes coming there – I don't know what yet, but I see some changes coming."



A pair of snow plows prepare to depart the Streets, Roads & Forestry facilities as snowflakes begin to fly. The LFUCG Department of Public Works is responsible for snow and ice removal from more than 1,110 lane miles of city and county roads.



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Tates Creek median to receive upgrade



The Tate's Creek Road median is currently covered by bush honeysuckle in many places (above), an invasive species that will be removed in the upcoming project. More than 130 trees will be planted to create a tree-lined corridor leading to downtown Lexington (below).



Computer rendering courtesy of CDP Engineers.

It's time for a facelift on Tate's Creek Road.

A major beautification and safety project is scheduled for the Tate's Creek Road median, between Old Dobbin Road and the area where the two lanes merge into one.

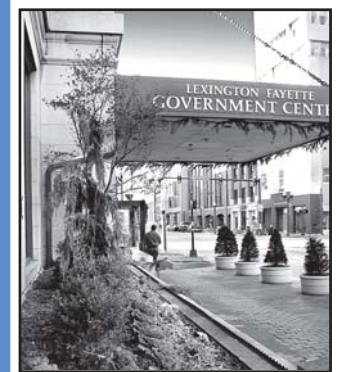
Throughout the spring, crews will remove the bush honeysuckle in the median and evaluate the condition of the existing trees. They will then plant new trees in the median, creating a boulevard-type corridor similar to the Richmond Road approach to downtown.

When the project is complete, more than 130 trees will line the Tate's Creek Road median, improving the appearance of a major approach to downtown Lexington.

This will also improve safety in the area, since the bush honeysuckle creates a sight hazard for motorists attempting to cross the road.

CDP Engineers did the design work for the project, and the Urban County Government's Division of Streets, Roads & Forestry will perform the median work.

For more information, contact the LFUCG's Urban Forester Tim Queary at (859) 425-2886.



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